

1 I Claim:

2 1. A method for preparing a tissue sample for analysis, comprising the steps of:

3 (a) embedding an oriented tissue sample in a porous embedding media; and

4 (b) processing the embedded tissue sample with tissue processing reagents.

5 2. The method of claim 1, wherein the porous embedding media comprises agarose.

6 3. The method of claim 1, wherein the process embedded media comprises a pre-
7 formed foam.

8 4. The method of claim 1, wherein the tissue sample is oriented in an opening or
9 depression formed in said pre-formed foam.

10 5. The method of claim 4, including the step of forming said opening or depression
11 by cutting, drilling, punching or molding.

12 6. The method of claim 4, wherein the tissue sample is embedded flush with or
13 below an outer surface of the pre-formed foam.

14 7. The method of claim 4, wherein the pre-formed foam comprises a preformed
15 block of phenolic foam.

16 8. The method of claim 2, wherein said agarose has a melting point in the range of
17 about 55 to 65°C.

18 9. The method of claim 1 further including the step of sectioning the embedded
19 tissue sample following processing.

20 10. The method of claim 1 wherein said tissue processing reagents are selected from
21 the group consisting essentially of water, xylene, alcohol and paraffin.

1 11. A cassette for receiving and retaining a tissue specimen for fluid treatment
2 preparatory to histological examination, comprising a top portion and a bottom portion snap or
3 friction mounted to the top portion, the bottom portion having a side wall removable along a tear
4 line.

5 12. The cassette of claim 10, wherein said removable side wall bridges said top and
6 bottom portions.

7 13. The cassette of claim 10, wherein said removable side wall includes a pair of tear
8 lines.

9 14. The cassette of claim 10, wherein said removable wall includes a projecting tab to
10 facilitate removal of said wall.

11 15. The cassette of claim 10, wherein said top and bottom portions are molded of a
12 synthetic plastic material.

13 16. The cassette of claim 10 further comprising a pre-formed foam block.